

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1 and 28-35 were previously cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 5, 8, 11-13, 15, and 18-27 are cancelled herein without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 2-4, 6, 7, 9, 10, 14, 16, and 17 are amended herein without prejudice or disclaimer. All of the pending claims 2-4, 6, 7, 9, 10, 14, 16, and 17 are presented below. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application. Please enter these claims as amended.

Listing of the Claims:

1. (Canceled)

2. (Currently Amended) ~~A process for detecting and quantifying a nucleic acid of interest in at least one sample, the process comprising:~~

~~administering at least 100 μ l of the at least one sample to a solid carrier capable of absorbing the at least one sample;~~

~~drying the solid carrier;~~

~~extracting a representative part of the at least one sample from the solid carrier with a nucleic acid isolation solution;~~

~~detecting the nucleic acid of interest, if present, in the representative part of the at least one sample; and~~

~~quantifying the nucleic acid of interest in the at least one sample~~

A process for preparing at least one sample for a method of detecting and quantifying a nucleic acid of interest in the at least one sample, said process comprising:

a) administering at least 100 microliters of the at least one sample to a piece of filter paper capable of absorbing the at least one sample, wherein the absorption results in at least one spot of the at least one sample on the filter paper,

b) drying the filter paper having the absorbed at least one spot of the at least one sample,

c) excising the at least one spot of the at least one sample from the surrounding filter paper,

d) extracting nucleic acid from the at least one spot of the at least one sample with a nucleic acid isolation solution,

e) detecting nucleic acid of interest, if present, and

f) quantifying the nucleic acid of interest in the at least one sample.

3. (Currently amended) The process according to claim 2, wherein at least 200 µl of the at least one sample is administered to the ~~solid-carrier~~ filter paper.

4. (Currently amended) The process according to claim 3, wherein at least 250 µl of the at least one sample is administered to the ~~solid-carrier~~ filter paper.

5. (Canceled)

6. (Currently amended) The process according to claim 2, wherein at least two samples are administered to the ~~solid-carrier~~ filter paper.

7. (Currently amended) The process according to claim 2, further comprising administering a known amount of a reference nucleic acid to the ~~solid-carrier~~ filter paper.

8. (Canceled)

9. (Currently amended) The process according to claim 2, wherein the representative part of the solid carrier comprises the whole of the ~~solid-carrier~~ filter paper.

10. (Currently amended) The process according to claim 6, wherein the representative part of the ~~solid-carrier~~ filter paper comprises one of the at least one samples.

11.-13. (Canceled)

14. (Currently amended) The process according to claim 2, wherein the nucleic acid of interest is ~~of a viral origin~~ from a virus.

15. (Canceled)

16. (Currently amended) The process according to claim ~~13~~ 14, wherein the viral RNA ~~comprises~~ is from at least one of HIV or HTLV.

17. (Currently amended) The process according to claim ~~13~~ 14, wherein the viral RNA ~~comprises~~ is from HIV-1.

18.-35. (Cancelled)